

History Merchand State Teachers College
Box 9 File 7
Teacher Training In Kentucky

1932?

apart from an ineffective effort in 1856 to establish a normal school in connection with Transylvania College, and another unsuccessful attempt in connection with the Kentucky Military Institute in 1878, Kentucky did nothing for the training of teachers until 1880, when a normal department was added to the University of Kentucky. Up to this time public teachers depended for their training on the colleges, academies, and particularly on private normal schools which sprang up in different parts of the state around some strong personality, flourished for a time and died. Sixteen of these private schools were active when the state in 1880 undertook the professional training of teachers.

From the beginning the normal school established at the University of Kentucky offered advanced ~~courses~~ instruction, and in 1893 courses

were outlined leading to the degree of bachelor of pedagogy. The state's conception, at this time, of its responsibility for the training of teachers was, however, very narrow, for it limited the number of students with free tuition to five from any one county.

(Insert here background for Eastern & western)

In 1906 two state normal schools for white teachers were established, one for Western Kentucky in Bowling Green, and the other for Eastern Kentucky in Richmond. In 1908 the normal department of Kentucky University was discontinued and in its stead there was established a department of collegiate rank.

On September 24, 1923, the school opened with a faculty of nine, and a student body of less than one hundred. Before the close of the year the faculty had increased to thirteen and the student body to two hundred and fifty. The second year opened with a faculty of twenty-four teachers, five

administrative officers, and approximately two hundred fifty students. Before the close of the second year the student body numbered nearly five hundred. ~~During~~ Every year the enrollment has increased, and the school has added to the faculty enough members to care for the increased enrollment.

Dr. Frank P. Bachman of the General Education Board of New York City fully recognized the fact that the teacher training facilities of the state were not equal to the demands made on the University. It is interesting to note the limitations which this report seemed to set up for the new schools, as the following quotation will show: "The new schools should be put where they will do the most good.

One should probably be located in the Big Sandy Valley, the other in the western part of the state, east of the Tennessee River.

Under no circumstances, should they at the outset be standard normal schools. They should be designed to prepare teachers for the rural (over.)

4
schools of the respective sections. A simple, single course of study not more than three years in ~~length~~ ~~from~~ length for elementary school entrants would for the present suffice, but the course should be thorough as far as it goes, and should from first to last be controlled by the needs of rural school teachers. A graduate desiring to advance further should be admitted to Richmond or Bowling Green, and should be able to complete an advanced course in two years.

(no previous statement found)

---- over to the State of Kentucky for a nominal sum, most of which was returned to the community for the purpose of aiding in the erection of a very beautiful and commodious church building for the Morehead Christian church. This building cost about \$40,000.00, and was planned with the idea of establishing a religious education school to serve the large body of students in attendance at the State Normal school.

(continued)

The by-products of the work at Morehead have been very valuable to the State of Kentucky, and have extended their influence even beyond the bounds of the Commonwealth. Among these, the Moonlight School movement by Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, who graduated from the old church school, should be mentioned. This movement has developed into a nation wide organization for adult education, and Mrs. Stewart is now the director of the National Advisory Committee on Illiteracy with ~~head~~ headquarters in Washington D. C. Another interesting and romantic service rendered by the institution, working together with the church of Morehead, has been the eradication of the feudal spirit and system in Rowan and adjoining counties. No doubt the combined influence of the gospel and education, has extended into many parts of the Kentucky mountains. Morehead and Hazel Green were pioneers in this service to the mountain people and the State of Kentucky.

(~~enc~~)

Graves Shears

During the pioneer days Morehead was a center of mountain life and enterprise. New roads were built in or along creek beds. One need not have gone a mile in any direction from Morehead to have found typical mountain homes, where the number of children was by no means the lowest common multiple of the number of rooms. On a trip through the eastern part of Kentucky, Woodrow Wilson once said:

"No one who has ridden, as I have, through the silent lengths of that great region, can fail to have his imagination touched by what he has seen, the almost limitless forests lying there untouched upon the long slopes of the towering hills, as if they had been there keeping their counsel and holding their secrets ever since the Creation; and here and there in the little clearings the houses of a secluded people, as reticent as the hills above them, slow to speak, their eyes watchful, holding back the secrets of their quiet life. And it is surely not to be wondered at that those of us who have known the better things that they have never had news of should feel the impulse of duty to return to them."

Mrs. Phoebe Button and her son held their first school in a room upstairs in their little home. The first day they had one pupil, Anna Page, an orphan girl. Mr. Button wrote an article about the beginning of the school for publication in a paper of the Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. A man in California read about Anna Page and wrote the Buttons to get more information about her parents. It turned out that she was the man's niece, and he sent money for her to come to California. She was well-educated and later was married.

In 1890 the grounds and money for the first school building were given by Judge Thomas F. Hargis of Louisville, Kentucky, who had been reared in Morehead.

~~James~~ ^{These} Judge Hargis father had owned much land but had been poor as far as money was concerned. This had debarred young Hargis from the education he desired. He had borrowed law books and going to a wide, spreading beech on the banks of Triplett Creek, had studied Blackstone. His lunch of corn bread in his pocket and spend the day reading. It was these old associations and the knowledge of how education was needed in his beloved mountains which caused Judge Hargis to devote the beautiful site for the Morehead Normal School.

Robert Hodson and his wife of Ogona, Illinois, made a gift to the school to erect a dormitory.

The chief industrial features of the Morehead Normal were a printing plant and a broom factory. There were eight full scholarships, twelve half ones, and fifteen one-fourth ones. In 1904 one young man from the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee was graduated. He had walked one hundred and eighty miles to attend school at Morehead.

For thirteen years the school was under the control of the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention. On July 31, 1900, the school passed under the control of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. An interesting bulletin printed during the early years of the twentieth century mentioned the "erection of a new building, Burgess Hall, a building of brick and stone that cost about ten thousand dollars." This was the only brick building on the campus. There were three large wooden buildings. Modern conveniences were practically unknown.

Bureau of
Source Materials

History of Morehead S. Teachers College.

Monday, Sept. 24, 1923, was a great day in the history of Eastern Ky. with Morehead as the setting. on this day a new state school was to be established, the first state institution of any kind to be located in the ^{mountain} ~~mt.~~ of Ky.

For many years the people of this section of the state had waited for such recognition of the need of an institution of higher education within their reach, and now the time had come and they were ready to show their appreciation by their presence and cooperation. Early in the morning a great crowd of people began to arrive from every section of Eastern Kentucky. By ten o'clock, over five thousand people were assembled on the school campus. on trains, in automobiles, buggies, wagons, on horseback, and on foot, they came; men ~~and~~ women and children, all interested in the great cause of education. Men and women, who in their childhood and early youth, had not had the advantages of such an institution, were present to hear the leading educators of the state discuss the benefits to be derived from

(over)

(2)
the State School for their children and their
Children's Children in the years to come.

Honorable James Clay, Master of Ceremonies
opened the Exercises. Speakers on the program
received the Closest Attention of the
Audience. The program was as follows:

Invocation, Rev. R.C. Caudill of the Church
of God, Morehead.

Welcome Address, F.C. Button, President of ~~Morehead~~
~~Morehead~~ State Normal

Response, Rev. Geo. Darsie, Mt. Sterling Christian Church
Address, "Teachers Training", Mr. Henry Rhodes,
Democratic Nominee for State Superintendent
of Public Instruction.

Address, Judge M.M. Redwine of Sandy Hook

Intermission for Lunch

Music, Salt Lick Band

Address, Prof. W.L. Jayne, Republican Nominee
for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Address - Judge E.C. O'Rear, Frankfort,
Chairman of the Normal School Commission.

Address - Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart

Address - Chas. D. Lewis, Dean of the Morehead
State Normal

Reverend, Rev. E. C. Watts of the Morehead M. E.
Church.

at noon a free lunch was served on the school grounds, to all persons who would accept the hospitality of the people of Morehead and Rowan County. Pits had been dug in which ~~beef~~ venes and sheep had been roasted and great kettles of burgoo, together with coffee, provided an abundance of food for all the visitors.

Throughout the day, thousands of people remained to enjoy the unusual opportunities of meeting old friends, among whom were a large number of former students of the old Morehead School, the worthy predecessor of the new State Normal School.

The following composed the ^{first} faculty of the Morehead State Normal:

Mr. F. C. Button, President; Chas. D. Lewis, Dean; C. C. Peratt, Professor of History; Henry Hoggan, Professor of Science and Agriculture; D. M. Holbrook, Mathematics; Miss Inez Smith Humphrey, English; Miss Evelyn Royalty, Reading and Expression; Miss Emma Shader, Music; Miss Willie Mae Watson, Mathew; Miss Anna Carter, Stenographer. (over)

In this simple but appropriate manner the new State School was inaugurated, and a great forward movement for education in Eastern Kentucky started on its way.

The founding of the Morehead State Teacher College, and its location in Morehead, ^{was} ~~were~~ made possible by the use of several different forces and opportunities. Among these was the willingness of the Christian's woman's Board of Missions of Indianapolis, Indiana to make over the property of the old Morehead Normal School to the State of Kentucky for a nominal sum.

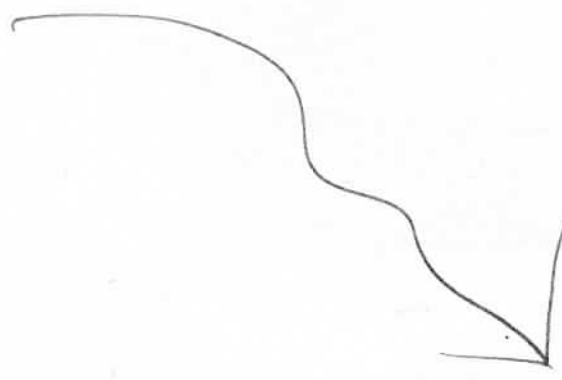
The school was founded in 1887 by the Christian, or Disciples, Church of Kentucky; with Mrs. Phoebe E. Button and her son, F. C. Button, as teachers, with one pupil in attendance the first day. The liberality of Gen. Wm. T. Withers, of Lexington, Kentucky, made the school possible; the generosity of Hon. Thos. F. Hargis, of Louisville, Kentucky, provided the first school house and the grounds for all the buildings; and a gift from Robert Hodson and wife, of Ogawka, Illinois, afforded the of a fund for the erection of a

Architects of Louisville, Kentucky, to the amount of a little over \$140,000.00 and were so accepted by the Commission appointed to locate two new State Normal Schools for Kentucky. The movement to establish two or more new Normal Schools in Kentucky had its inception in a law passed by the General Assembly in 1920, providing for a State Educational Survey. This Commission was composed of Dr. W. A. Garfield, President of Centre College, Danville, Chairman; Alex G. Barret, lawyer and member of the Louisville Board of Education, Louisville; J. L. Harman, President of the Bowling Green Business ~~School~~ University, Bowling Green; C. J. Hayden, President of the Springfield Board of Education, Springfield, and Miss Katie McDaniel, formerly Superintendent of Christian County Schools, Hopkinsville. The Commission secured from the general Education Board, of New York City, the services of a staff of experts under the direction of Dr. Frank P. Bachman, and after a survey extending over a period of fifteen months, made its report to the Governor in 1921. Among its recommendations was one for the establishment of two normal schools for the training of white elementary teachers.

(7)
One to be in Eastern Kentucky, and one in Western Kentucky.

Acting upon this recommendation, the General Assembly, 1922, passed an act providing for the establishment of two Normal Schools for the training of white elementary teachers and appropriating money for the operation and maintenance thereof. This act further provided that a commission of eight persons five to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who was Hon. J. H. Thompson, of Bourbon County, and three by the Lieutenant Governor, who was Hon. S. Thurston Ballard, of Louisville, should select locations for the two schools.

Continued



The Lieutenant Governor designated as members of the Commission, Prof. J. L. Harman, President of the Bowling Green Business University; Hon. Alex G. Barret, lawyer and distinguished citizen of Louisville and Judge Arthur Peters, lawyer and former judge of Jefferson County. The Speaker of the House designated as members of the Commission Judge Ed. C. O'Rear, former Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals Hon. Thomas A. Combs, former State Senator and prominent business man of Lexington; Hon. Sherman Goodpaster, former State Treasurer, of Frankfort; Hon. W. S. Wallen, lawyer and legislator, of Prestonsburg; Hon. Earl W. Senff, lawyer and County Judge of Montgomery County. Judge O'Rear was elected chairman and Judge Senff secretary of the Commission.

After a spirited contest and many futile efforts to decide on locations for these schools, the Commission met in Lexington, November 25, 1922, and named Morehead as the home of the new school for the Eastern Kentucky section of
(over)

the State, and Murray for the Western section.

In the meantime, a suit was instituted in the Franklin Circuit Court in order to determine the constitutionality of the act and extent of the Commissioner's duties. Final decision in this case was not reached until May 15, 1923, when the Court of Appeals affirmed the constitutionality of the act and defined the duties of the Commissioner. Early in August, 1923, the Commission completed its work in connection with the establishment of the school at Morehead. The management of the school was then placed in the hands of the State Board of Education, composed of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.

(Continued)

The State Board of Education elected as President of the school Frank C. Button, who had served for twenty-five years as head of the Morehead Normal School, and who at the time of his election had for twelve years served the State of Kentucky as rural school supervisor in the employ of the General Education Board of New York.

So much credit can not be given in the preliminary negotiations for the establishing of the school to the Hon. Allie M. Young of Morehead, and to Hon. James Clay, Hon. C. Hogge, and Hon. J. M. Bradley, all of Morehead, working together with the Morehead Commercial Club, in securing funds to provide for the taking over of the property of the old Morehead Normal School in the clearing of the titles to the same.

The investigations of the sites offered by different sections of the State and the applications made concerning the same entailed a large large amount of labor upon the Normal School Commission. This service was especially heavy upon the chairman of the commission, Judge Edward C. O'Rear, of Frankfort, and the efficient secretary, Judge Earl W. Sempf of Mt. Sterling. The new State School, after the act establishing the same had been carried through the courts of the State and ably defended by Judge E. C. O'Rear, was finally turned over to the State Board of Education, consisting of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, George Colvin, Secretary of State, Fredrick Vaughan, and the Attorney General, Thomas B. McGregor, Judge McGregor being the only one of the board now living.

The General Assembly of 1924 enacted a law transferring the control of the school from the State Board of Education to a Board of Regents, the members of which were to be appointed by the Governor, except the chairman, who was to be the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The first Board of Regents was as follows: Hon. McHenry Rhoads, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Frankfort, Chairman Ex officio; Mrs. Wm. J. Shields, Frankfort, Vice Chairman; Hon.

Allie N. Young, Morehead, Secretary; Hon. Edward N. fendleton, Prestonsburg, Member; and Hon. J. B. Clark, Inez, Member.

The difficulties encountered the first year of school were tremendous. The buildings were inadequate, there was no water supply. There was no sewer system and the streets were some top deep in mud. But Morehead was bonded to the limit for the purpose of putting ⁱⁿ a water system, and in the cooperation with the school authorities, all of these difficulties were overcome. In bringing about these new developments, the Board of Regents was active and efficient.

In 1926 the name was changed by the General Assembly from the Morehead State Normal School to the Morehead State Normal School and Teachers College. In 1930 the name was again changed and the school is now known as the Morehead State Teachers College.

When Morehead Normal School was organized, it was with the understanding that the State Legislature intended to provide for the training of elementary teachers with special emphasis on the preparation of teachers for the rural schools of Eastern Kentucky. Therefore, the course of study was adopted by the State Board of Education with this end in view.

However, the demand for a more advanced course of study and a higher standard for the institution as the only State school in the mountains soon became apparent. Toward this end the Board of Regents and the President worked for the advanced standing and membership in the Southern Association and the American Association of Colleges after having been admitted to membership in the Kentucky College Association in January 1928.

Early in January, 1929, President Button requested the assistance and advice of Dr. Paul P. Boyd and Registrar Ezra J. Gillis of the University of Kentucky in bringing about such changes as might be necessary in order to gain admission to these associations.

Dr. Boyd and Professor Gillis visited Morehead and made suggestions relative to this matter and recommended a general and complete survey of the college.

The Board of Regents met January 22, 1929, and selected President Frank J. McVey and Professor Ezra J. Gillis of the University of Kentucky, and Dr. George Allen Horkes of the University of Chicago to make the survey, which they did and made their report to the Board of Regents.

President F. C. Button had informed the Survey Commission and the Regents that it was his intention to resign as President, and a committee consisting of Gov. Glenn

D. Sampson, Hon. Allie M. Young, and Hon. Carl W. Senff was appointed to select a successor to President Button. On July 24, 1929, the committee reported, recommending Superintendent John Howard Layne of Maypsville, Kentucky, for the position of President, and this recommendation was unanimously adopted. F. C. Button was at this meeting by the same vote made Chaplain of the College.

The resignation of President Button was to be effective September 1, 1929. Superintendent Layne was selected because he was in the opinion of the Committee, peculiarly qualified both in education and personality for the position. He had been uniformly successful in every position to which he had been called. He was a graduate of the University of Kentucky, and had done work in Teachers College, Columbia University, from which institution he received the A.M. degree.

[Written by Pres. Button. Presented to Bureau of Source Materials in Higher Education by Mrs. Button - March 4, 1938.]